

FIRE CANOE RACE - 1984

BRISTOL DOCKS TO WINDSOR

4th/5th AUGUST, 1984



CITY OF BATH FIRE STATION TEAM



in aid of

JOHN APLEY WARD, ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL, BATH

and the

FIRE SERVICES NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND

FOREWORD



It gives me great pleasure to see that a combined team from the Bath Fire Station have entered the forthcoming Canoe Race to be organised and run by the Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade.

The success of their participation will without doubt depend for its success on a very united and combined team effort, whether it be by actually paddling in shifts for the extensive period of thirty-six hours or by completing the many tasks which will be required in support. When we consider the fact that three of the shifts are represented in the team then this will obviously be forthcoming.

The target to raise £1,000 for local charities is certainly in keeping with the event and may I on behalf of myself and all members of 'B' Division Headquarters wish all members of the team and their supporters every success

DIVISIONAL COMMANDER
'B' Division Headquarters
County of Avon Fire Brigade



THE 1984 FIRE CANOE RACE

The Fire Canoe Race is now an annual event organised by the Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade. The race starts at the Cumberland Basin in Bristol docks and then runs via the River Avon to Bath. Here it joins the Kennett and Avon canal and travels via Savernake and Hungerford to Newbury. The team will have to carry the canoe on certain sections of the canal as it is dried up and derelict and is in the process of restoration. Also locks will have to be negotiated, which includes a long flight at Devises. The final stage of the race is on the River Thames, finishing at Windsor. Here the teams have to take the canoes out of the river and run with them to the finishing line which is situated in the Windsor Safari Park.

The Bath team consists of eight paddlers, and four back up crew, and they hope to put in a fast time, as the race is run on a time basis, with the team operating in shifts of two. The support team is a very important part of the race, as they have to follow the course as close as possible attending to the paddlers needs and requirements.

The monies raised by the Bath team will be split. 75% will be donated to the John Apley Childrens Ward at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, as they have an appeal to raise money for a piped oxygen and suction system, with the remaining 25% going to the National Fire Services Benevolent Fund.

Local firms have been approached for sponsorship, and other fund raising events organised, and the team is indeed grateful for all the assistance it has been given.

ABOUT THE TEAM

All members of the team are serving members of the County of Avon Fire Brigade and are stationed at Station B1 Bath.

BOB BUNYAR. Bob is the Team Organiser. He has been in the Fire Brigade since 1972 having joined the former City of Bath Fire Brigade. He has also served at Brislington Station in Bristol and in the Fire Prevention Department at Bath before taking up his present position as Sub Officer on Red Watch at Bath. Bob is a member of the City of Bath Rowing Club and his hobbies include railways, photography and aircraft.

CHRIS BROOKS before joining the Fire Brigade on White Watch at Bath in 1976, Chris was with the Police Force. He lives in Bradford-on-Avon in Wiltshire and luckily one of his hobbies is canoeing which he does on the River Avon in Bradford-on-Avon.

ANDY DAVIS. Andy who lives in Bath, has been in the Fire Service for two years having completed his basic training in Bristol before joining Red Watch at Bath. Andy's hobbies include canoeing and rowing (again being a member of the City of Bath Rowing Club). He also plays rugby for the Brigade and enjoys hiking.

KEVIN ESCOTT. Before joining the Fire Brigade four years ago, Kevin was with the Parachute Regiment and has seen numerous parts of the world, as well as serving in Northern Ireland. He is a keen rugby player having played for the Brigade. He is a member of Red Watch and just after joining the Brigade took part in a sponsored Parachute Jump in aid of the Royal United Hospital.

ROD KING. Rod joined the Avon Fire Brigade in 1980 after training at Brigade Headquarters in Bristol and was posted to Kingswood Station. In 1993, he was promoted to the rank of leading fireman and moved to White Watch at Bath. Before joining the Brigade he worked as a Surveyor. He is keen on Rugby and keeping fit and lives in St. George, Bristol.

NEIL KIRKBY. Neil joined the Service in 1974 and was posted to Bath. He transferred for short spell to Bedminster in Bristol before returning to Bath and is now on Green Watch. His main hobby is do-it-yourself and his sports include running, rugby and cricket. Neil also took part in the Parachute Jump in aid of the Hospital.

PETE MARSH. Pete is a member of Red Watch at Bath having joined the Brigade in 1978 after serving in the Police Force. He is an all-round sportsman being keen on swimming tennis, running and motor cycling. In 1982, participated in the sponsored parachute jump in aid of the Hospital and ended up in it with a broken leg!

ALAN LAWSON. Alan has been in the Fire Service since 1971 when he joined the City of Bristol Brigade. He has served at Speedwell and Temple Back in Bristol and is now Officer in Charge of White Watch at Bath. He is very keen on running, having represented the Brigade and he also plays Badminton.

DAVE HOLLEY. Whilst Dave is not actually canoeing he is part of the support team. Dave who is on White Watch has been a Fireman at Bath for twenty-four years. He is also a magistrate and a local football referee and is keen on all sports.

JON MUIR. Jon is also assisting in the much needed support crew. He has been a fireman since 1963 and is on Red Watch. He formerly joined the City of Bristol Brigade before transferring to the City of Bath Brigade. Jon who lives at North Bradley, Wiltshire has a host of interests.

DAVE ROOM. Dave is the third member of the support team. He is a retained Fireman at Bath having joined in February 1976. His hobbies include Jogging, Snooker and Cricket.

JOHN MESSER. Yet another 'John'. He is the final member of the support team and is also a retained Fireman at Bath having served there since August 1972. His hobbies are Snooker and Jogging.



The Team with Patients and Staff at Bath's Royal United Hospital — John Apley Ward



Bath's Support Team

THE JOHN APLEY WARD

ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL, BATH

Seventy-five per cent of the sponsorship raised from the canoe race will be donated to the John Apley Ward at the Royal United Hospital Bath. It is hoped that £1,000 can be raised.

John Apley Ward is a general childrens' medical ward of 19 beds and cots. It admits children from the ages of 0-16 year of age.

The nursing staff of the ward started on a fund raising effort in August 1983 to raise money to have piped oxygen and suction equipment installed. The staff frequently need to give oxygen and use suction on children with respiratory conditions — especially in the winter months.

Oxygen and suction is available now as it is a life saving equipment, but at present it is in the form of cumbersome sylinders and machines which is not easily portable from one cubicle to another. The piped system would be a great advantage as it would be accessible immediately and also be available to several children at one time.

So far, over £5,000 has been raised by various fund raising projects such as a sponsored parachute jump, jumble sales, 'T' shirt and balloon sales and generous donations from the local community.

It is hoped that the money raised by the Bath Team will greatly reduce the anticipated £4-5,000 still required.



Ward Sister P. Van Cleemput started the Appeal for the John Apley Ward

THE FIRE SERVICE NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND

The Fire Service National Benevolent Fund was created during the 1939-45 War as a direct result of the need for an organisation which would speedily mitigate, at least to some degree the inevitable distress and hardship suffered by members of the fire service and their dependants during the war.

The Benevolent Fund today carries the work started during the war, and is run by serving and former serving members on a voluntary basis.

It provides the following benefits to serving members, former members, their families, widows and ancillary workers; two convalescence centres—one at Littlehampton and one at Chudleigh, Devon, Financial help to widows and handicapped children of serving members, Education grants to orphans university awards to orphans, Death grants to members suffering prolonged sickness, hospital parcels to persons ill in hospital or at home and finally Christmas Hampers to widows of former firemen.

The Benevolent Fund relies entirely on donations of money to provide for all the above mentioned benefits. The money is received either by donations from other organisations or through fund raising events held throughout the country organised by firemen.



COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE